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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/632,335	08/01/2003	Johnathan P. Tann	13552.4003	3599

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EXAMINER

QUELER, ADAM M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/632,335

Applicant(s)

TANN ET AL.

Examiner

Adam M. Queler

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11-18 and 21-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11-18 and 21-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/25/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 4/27/2006 and Arguments filed 01/27/2006.
2. Claims 1-8, 11-18, and 21-27 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. **Claims 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.**

Neither claim 26 nor claim 27 appear to have any support in the specification. Therefore it would not appear to one of ordinary skill in the art that Applicant had invented the claimed subject matter given the specification.

5. **Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.** The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. As the material is not described in the specification is not ascertainable that one of ordinary skill in the art could make or use the claimed subject matter without resorting to undue experimentation.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. **Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.**

As claim 26 is not described in the specification as described above, it is not clear what the updating of entails nor what the true meaning of the claim nor the limits of its scope. For examining purposes only, the scope will be taken to entail restarting of the counter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 1-8, and 11-18, 21-24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohl et al. (US 20020091930A1), and further in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.**

Regarding independent claim(s) 1, Kohl teaches installing a counter on to the device (para. 36). Kohl teaches that the content has been played, or presented (para. 37). Inherently, there must have been a player, which in order to play the content, must have been searched for and found. As this player was found, or exists, the claim language is met as the premise of the conditional statement in the claims is false. Kohl teaches setting the counter to a specific value, 5, (para. 37), and using it to keep track of the allowable amount of plays (para. 37), though does not explicitly state that it is decrementing the counter. However, since the counter starts at the

maximum allowed value, and is a counter recording the number of allowable plays, inherently, the counter must be decremented.

Kohl does not explicitly disclose the counter and content are on removable media. However, Applicant admits that removable media was a popular way get content on devices (p. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use removable media as it was popular to use at the time of the invention and would have increased user acceptance. Inherently, then the counter must have been searched for and installed.

Kohl does not explicitly teach a handheld device, but rather a more general computer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to carry out the steps in the order claimed as it has been held the making a device portable is *prima facie* obvious in the absence of new or unexpected results, *In re Lindberg*, 194 F.2d 732, 93 USPQ 23 (CCPA 1952).

Regarding independent claim(s) 11, Kohl teaches installing a counter on to the device (para. 36). Kohl teaches that the content has been played, or presented (para. 37). Inherently, there must have been a player. Kohl teaches setting the counter to a specific value, 5, (para. 37), and using it to keep track of the allowable amount of plays (para. 37), though does not explicitly state that it is decrementing the counter. However, since the counter starts at the maximum allowed value, and is a counter recording the number of allowable plays, inherently, the counter must be decremented.

Kohl does not explicitly disclose the counter and content are on removable media. However, Applicant admits that removable media was a popular way get content on devices (p.

1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use removable media as it was popular to use at the time of the invention and would have increased user acceptance. Inherently, then the counter must have been searched for and installed.

Kohl does not explicitly teach a handheld device, but rather a more general computer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to carry out the steps in the order claimed as it has been held the making a device portable is *prima facie* obvious in the absence of new or unexpected results, *In re Lindberg*, 194 F.2d 732, 93 USPQ 23 (CCPA 1952).

Regarding dependent claim(s) 2 and 12, Kohl teaches multimedia (para. 25)

Regarding dependent claim(s) 3 and 13, Kohl teaches audio files (para. 25).

Regarding dependent claim(s) 4 and 14, Kohl teaches videos, which comprise at least one graphical image (para. 25).

Regarding dependent claim(s) 5-8 and 15-18, as the intended use in different media would not result in a manipulative difference the prior art and the claimed invention(s); the claims are similarly rejected as claims 8 and 13 above. See, e.g., *In re Otto*, 312 F.2d 937, 938, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963) and *In re Sinex*, 309 F.2d 488, 492, 135 USPQ 302, 305 (CCPA 1962).

Regarding dependent claim(s) 21 and 23, Kohl does not explicitly teach all types of media the invention extends too. Keyt teaches that web pages are content that must be protected against illegal use (whole document). Web pages inherently have link to web sites. It would have been obvious to extend Kohl's protection of content to web pages as web pages need to be protected for financial reasons (Keyt, para. 1).

Regarding dependent claim(s) 22 and 24, Kohl does not explicitly teach all types of media the invention extends too. Keyt teaches that web pages are content that must be protected against illegal use (whole document). Web pages inherently have link to web sites that are opened in a web browser when clicked. It would have been obvious to extend Kohl's protection of content to web pages as web pages need to be protected for financial reasons (Keyt, para. 1).

Regarding dependent claim(s) 26, Kohl teaches restarting the counter (para. 44).

10. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohl and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Headings et al. (US 20020144283A1).

Regarding dependent claim(s) 25, Kohl teaches that when counter expires, the license expires. Kohl does not explicitly disclose deleting the data when the license expires. Headings teaches deleting content when the license expires (para. 28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to delete the content in order to comply with various copyrights and distribution rules (Headings, para. 3). Additional motivation is found in the nature of the problem to be solved, which is protecting copyrighted content. Protection of content cannot be any more effective then permanently removing a would-be infringer's possession of the content.

11. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohl and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Colvin et al. (US 2001/0034712 A1, 10/25/2001)

Regarding dependent claim(s) 27, Kohl teaches that when counter expires, the license expires (para. 28). Kohl does not explicitly disclose what to do when the license expires. Colvin teaches

notifying a server or web site (para. 78). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to notify the server to serve as an extra protection, to notify the server of an illegal use (Colvin, para. 82).

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed 1/27/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant alleges the amendments overcome the prior art. However, the claims are still rejected as explained in the rejections above.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

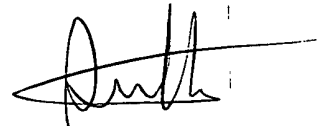
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15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam M. Queler whose telephone number is (571) 272-4140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AQ



STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER